

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

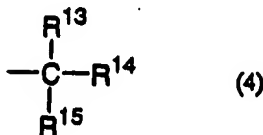
1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition ~~according to Claim 1~~ comprising a) a compound with an alkali-soluble group protected by an acid labile group *a* and b) an acid generator which generates acid by irradiation with radiation, where condition a3) is satisfied wherein the acid labile group *a* has an alkali-soluble group or alternatively the acid labile group *a* has an alkali-soluble group protected by an acid labile group *b*.

9. (Currently Amended) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition according to Claim 8 wherein the acid labile group *a* ~~in the compound meeting condition a3)~~ with an alkali-soluble group protected by an acid labile group *a* has at least one phenolic hydroxyl group, or alternatively a phenolic hydroxyl group further protected with acid labile group *b*.

10. (Currently Amended) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition according to Claim 8 wherein the acid labile group *a* in the compound ~~meeting condition a3)~~ with an alkali-soluble group protected by an acid labile group *a* has at least one carboxyl group or alternatively a carboxyl group further protected with acid labile group *b*.

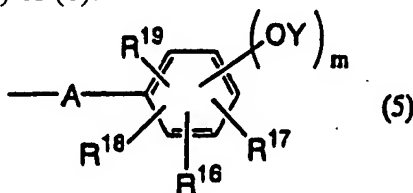
11. (Currently Amended) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition according to Claim 8 wherein the labile group *a* in the compound ~~meeting condition a3)~~ group with an alkali-soluble group protected by an acid labile group *a* is represented by general formula (4):



(R¹³ to R¹⁵ are each independently an alkyl group, a substituted alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a substituted aryl group, a group containing an alkali-soluble group, or a group

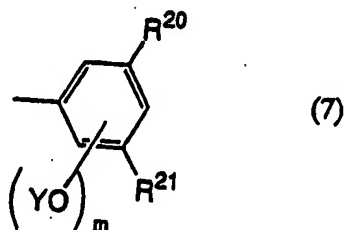
containing an alkali-soluble group protected by acid labile group *b*, and at least one is a group containing an alkali-soluble group, or a group containing an alkali-soluble group protected by acid labile group *b*, R^{13} to R^{15} may be the same or different).

12. (Previously Presented) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition according to Claim 11 wherein at least one of R^{13} to R^{15} in general formula (4) is a group represented by general formula (5) or (6):



(A represents an alkylene group with 1 to 4 carbons, an arylene group with 6 to 10 carbons or a single bond, B represents an alkylene group with 1 to 6 carbons, an arylene group with 6 to 10 carbons, an alkylenearylene group with 7 to 12 carbons or a single bond, R^{16} to R^{19} each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbons, Y represents an acid labile group *b* or a hydrogen atom, and *m* is 1 to 3).

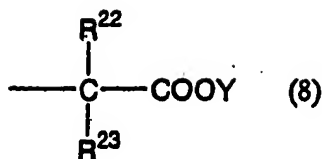
13. (Previously Presented) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition according to Claim 11 wherein at least one of R^{13} to R^{15} in general formula (4) is a group represented by general formula (7):



(R^{20} and R^{21} each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbons, Y represents an acid labile group *b* or a hydrogen atom, and *m* is 1 to 3).

14. (Previously Presented) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition according to Claim 11 wherein at least one of R^{13} to R^{15} of general formula (4) is of structure

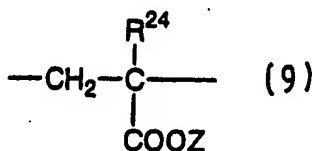
represented by general formula (8):



(R²² and R²³ represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbons, Y represents an acid labile group *b* or a hydrogen atom).

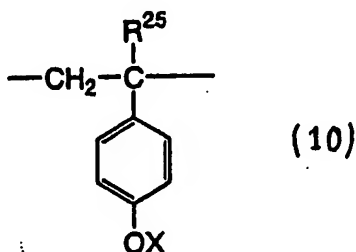
15. (Currently Amended) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition according to Claim 1 ~~8~~ wherein the compound ~~meeting any of conditions a1) to a3)~~ with an alkali-soluble group protected by an acid labile group *a* is a polymer of weight average molecular weight from 5,000 to 50,000.

16. (Currently Amended) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition according to Claim 1 ~~8~~ wherein the compound ~~meeting any of conditions a1) to a3)~~ with an alkali-soluble group protected by an acid labile group *a* is a polymer containing structural units represented by general formula (9):



(R²⁴ represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbons, a cyano group or a halogen, Z is a group represented by general formula (1), (2) or (4)).

17. (Currently Amended) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition according to Claim 4 ~~or Claim 8~~ wherein the compound ~~meeting condition a2) or a3)~~ with an alkali-soluble group protected by an acid labile group *a* is a polymer containing structural units represented by general formula (10):



(R²³ represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbons, a cyano group or a halogen, X is an acid labile group represented by general formula (2) or (4)).

18. (Previously Presented) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition according to Claim 16 wherein R²⁴ is a cyano group or a halogen.

19-20. (Canceled)